

Power line will span west part of the county

46-mile-long line will run Box Elder County to Salt Lake County

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Rocky Mountain Power this spring will begin building a north-south electrical transmission line that promises to change the skyline of western Davis County.

The 46-mile-long line will run from southern Box Elder County to a substation in Centerville and then on to another substation just west of the Salt Lake City International Airport.

Rocky Mountain Power spokesman Dave Eskelsen said the line is part of a \$4.1 billion program announced in 2007 designed to enhance the utility's transmission system in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming.

Demand for electricity is growing along the Wasatch Front and among other Rocky Mountain Power customers, Eskelsen said. "We need another transmission line to ensure we have enough capacity to serve our customers in the future."

The utility hopes to begin building the line in June and complete its construction in spring 2010. It will be built in an existing Rocky Mountain Power corridor, or right-of-way, that already is home to three other major lines.

Joro Walker, director of the Utah office of Western Resources Advocates, said his environmental organization is eager to see that any new lines approved and built carry increasing amounts of "green power."

"We'd hate to see just a teeny amount of green power being moved over those lines," she said. "Instead of electricity generated by coal, what this country really needs is increased amounts renewable energy."

Eskelsen said as Rocky Mountain Power augments its transmission grid over the next five to eight years, the enhanced system will provide the company greater capacity to access resources such as wind power.

"You can have renewable generating resources, but it won't do a lot of good if the transmission [of that power] is problematic," he said.

And he noted that the availability of transmission capacity was one of the factors the company considered when it decided several years ago to build the natural gas-fired Currant Creek power plant near Mona in Juab County and its Lake Side plant in Utah County.

The new line that will run through western Davis County will begin at the Ben Lomond substation near the Box Elder and Weber county lines. It will run 30 miles south to the Parrish substation in Centerville and then another 16 miles south to the Terminal substation near the airport.